Medicine Hat
The Gas City

MEDIA RELEASE

Alberta's 25

City of Medicine Hat - 580 First Street S.E. - Medicine Hat, Alberta, T1A 8E8 - (403) 502-8071

HAT smart
A City of Medicine Hat Environmental initiative

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 25, 2007

WE'RE HAT SMART - CITY LAUNCHES ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Solar Electric Project, Xeriscape Garden

Medicine Hat – The City of Medicine Hat is officially launching two environmental initiatives Thursday, June 28.

As part of its HAT Smart environmental initiatives, the City is inviting the public to attend the official grand opening of a Solar Electric Project at the Medicine Hat Public Library and a Xeriscape Garden at the Medicine Hat College.

"The City of Medicine Hat is doing its part to be a community of choice through numerous alternative energy initiatives," says Mayor Garth Vallely. "We have signaled our long-term commitment to environmental stewardship, sustainable utilities and ultimately a sustainable community. These two projects, as well as many others to come, are what make us HAT Smart. We are thinking about and planning for the future."

The official launch of the Solar Electric Project takes place at the Library at 11 a.m. The project is a one kilowatt solar electric system on the roof of the Medicine Hat Public Library as part of the Alberta Solar Municipal Showcase involving 20 municipalities across the province. Solar electric (photovoltaic) systems use an abundant energy source, the sun, to generate electricity.

"This solar electric system provides a better understanding of Medicine Hat's solar potential, explores options to diversify the City's energy portfolio, and increases awareness of renewable energy," says Russ Smith, Manager of Environmental Management and Alternative Energy. "In essence, it is a project that helps our community explore the opportunities that solar energy can provide."

At 2:30 p.m., the City and Medicine Hat College are unveiling a xeriscape garden that showcases the simple, seven-step approach to developing a lush yet water-wise landscape. The benefits of xeriscaping are less maintenance, less fertilizing, less pruning, less weeding and less mowing.

"Effective water use doesn't mean changing your lifestyle," says Sharon Schentag, Community Relations and Marketing Officer, Environmental Utilities. "It means reducing water waste, such as improper irrigation or landscape choices. Xeriscape is a means to achieve highly attractive, comfortable landscapes without excess water use. Xeriscape can substantially reduce water use."

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The public is encouraged to attend the launch of the HAT Smart environmental initiatives to learn more about the solar and water conservation projects.

Solar Electric Project
Medicine Hat Public Library
June 28, 2007
11 a.m.

Xeriscape Garden
Medicine Hat College
June 28, 2007
2:30 p.m.

Additional information about solar energy and water conservation, as well as other energy conservation initiatives, are available at www.hatsmart.ca

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